



YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Dear parent/carers

I hope that you have enjoyed a good break over the summer and that you and your family are well. After many months of very different arrangements, we are looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils back into school this term. I am sure that you are aware that some aspects of the school day will be different to the norm. However, I am confident that our children will enjoy the opportunity to return to classes, with their friends and teachers and to get back into working and learning together in ways that have not been possible for so long.

As with the partial reopening last term, we have put a lot of thought and care into ensuring that our return this term can be safe while retaining as much as possible of what is familiar and normal about school for all of our pupils. For instance, all pupils will have access to the same wide range of learning activities within classes that normally make up our curriculum and will take timetabled break and lunchtimes with their classmates as usual.

You may be aware that the current Welsh Government (WG) guidance now advises that it is no longer a requirement that children under the age of 11 maintain a 2m social distance from one another at all times. Following this advice;

- Pupils will be organised into contact groups based on year groups rather than the previous 'bubbles' of 8 children. This means that pupils will be able to work in their usual classes and to have their break time as a year group outside.
- All adults will still be required to maintain a 2m distance from one another and from pupils, wherever possible. This applies to all parents/carers bringing/collecting children from school.

START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

In order to assist with maintaining separate contact groups we will be running a staggered timetable for the start and end of the day. **Please note this timetable has changed since the summer term.**

	Beginning of day	End of day	Access via
Nursery	9.00 / 12.45	11.30 / 3.15	Conway Road
Reception	8:50	3:05	Conway Road
Year 1	9.00	3:15	School Lane
Year 2	8:50	3:05	School Lane
Year 3	8:50	3:05	George St steps
Year 4	9:00	3:15	George St ramp
Year 5	9.00	3:15	George St steps
Year 6	8:50	3:05	George St ramp

Parents must follow the points below when dropping off and collecting pupils from school:

- All parents/carers will be required to observe social distancing when travelling to and from school.
- Only one adult per household should bring/collect children.
- Parents are requested to walk to school where possible.
- All parents/carers and children are to approach school via the appointed access (see table overleaf).
- A member of staff will take charge of your child at the entrance gate.
- Parents/carers **are not permitted** to enter the school site.
- Parents/carers must observe the 2m distance markings on pathways while waiting for their child to enter/leave.
- The drop-off zone will be closed to ensure children's safety. Families arriving by car will need to park and then bring/collect children using their entry/exit point.
- Parents/carers of pupils in Nursery & Reception will queue on the path leading from Conway Road, observing the 2m rule.
- Parents/carers of pupils in Years 1&2 will queue on the path leading from School Lane (2m rule).
- Parents/carers of pupils in Years 3-6 will queue on either side of the drop-off zone in the marked areas (2m rule).
- Parents/carers are requested to use the surrounding space to maintain a safe 2m distance from others as they leave.
- Parents/carers must leave the areas surrounding school as soon as children have been handed over. Gathering with others is not permitted.

Most importantly, no parent/carer or child showing any symptoms of Covid-19 should come to school. Symptoms include a persistent cough and/or high temperature, difficulty in breathing and change to or loss of taste and smell. Any child with symptoms will be isolated and parents will be contacted to collect them immediately. The school is required to follow the WG Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) strategy whenever a pupil or adult shows signs of Covid-19. Guidance on testing and contact tracing is available here:

<https://gov.wales/education-settings-coronavirus-testing-and-contact-tracing-guidance>

WHICH CLASS IS MY CHILD IN AT THE START OF TERM?

All pupils will begin this term by returning to the class they were in when schools closed at the start of the lockdown in March. For example, if your child was in Mr Keir's class, or Ms Bodger's class last year, then they will return to Mr Keir's class or Ms Bodger's class when they restart.

Children will move to their new class for the 2020-21 school year on Monday 21st September after a Move up-Day on Wednesday 16th September. This will give all children a chance to settle back into school in the first two weeks of term and to be properly prepared for moving to their next class.

CHANGES FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF TERM

Please note the following arrangements which will be different at the start of this term as the school adapts to new ways of operating:

- The school canteen will be providing packed lunches only up to and including Friday 11th September. Hot meals will then be available from Monday 14th September onwards.
- All pupils will eat packed lunches in their classrooms.
- In line with all schools in Torfaen, Breakfast Club will restart on Monday 14th September.

WHAT DAY DOES MY CHILD **RETURN TO GEORGE STREET SCHOOL?**

All pupils who were part of George Street last school year will return to school for **one day this week**:

Thursday 3rd September ONLY: Foundation Phase - Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 (NOT Friday 4th)

Friday 4th September ONLY: Key Stage 2 Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 (NOT Thursday 3rd)

They will then start full time on Monday 7th September.

Together we live learn and value

WHAT DAY DOES MY CHILD **START** AT GEORGE STREET SCHOOL?

If your child is joining George Street for the first time this September (from another school or as a new child into Nursery / Reception) they will begin on the following day:

Monday 7th September – All pupils transferring from another school

Wednesday 16th September – Move-up Day/session for all new Nursery & Reception pupils

Please note: an information sharing session has been arranged for parents of all new Nursery & Reception pupils on Thursday 10th September. You will have received a separate invitation to attend.

GENERAL POINTS FOR ALL PARENTS/PUPILS

Please be aware of the following points that are of importance for all parents/carers and pupils.

- All pupils are expected to wear school uniform from the start of term.
- There will be no hot meals in school before Monday 14th September.
- Pupils should not bring non-essential items from home into school. Necessary resources for pupils to complete activities in school, including stationery, will be provided.
- It is not expected that pupils wear face coverings.
- Enhanced handwashing routines and hygiene practices will be part of the normal school day.
- Additional cleaning will continue.
- Wraparound and After School Club will restart on Monday 7th September.
- There will be no after school extra-curricular activities (e.g. sports clubs) this half term.
- Off-site visits (including swimming) will not take place until further notice.
- Parents are not permitted to enter the school site without prior agreement. If you need to speak with a member of staff, please contact the school by phone or email using the details at the top of this letter.

The Local Authority updated its FAQ page for parents last week and you can access it here:

<https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/AboutTheCouncil/Homepage-Stories/Coronavirus/Education/Return-to-School-FAQs.aspx>

Finally, I would like to reassure parents that George Street has run effectively as a hub school, and throughout the 'catch-up and prepare' weeks at the end of last term. We are keen to have pupils back in school, and to help them enjoy their learning alongside their friends and adults again. We know what a strong impact these relationships have on childrens' learning, wellbeing and confidence and are really looking forward to making the best of the time we have with your child(ren) in school.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington